

REMARKS

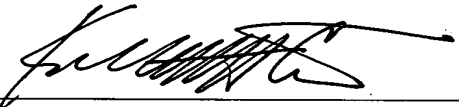
Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In amended claim 1, "characterized by " has been deleted. Claim 4 now retains the "wherein" clause of the claim. Claim 5 has been canceled. A typographical oversight in claim 17 has been corrected.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's earlier indication that all claims may be considered upon rejoinder. Applicants respectfully solicit rejoinder followed by allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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